



Improving the health of the people in our communities by
providing quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time

To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: John Shaski, Government Relations Officer

Date: May 21, 2013

Subject: Senate Bill 250 (S1)-Assault of a Medical Professional

Sparrow Position: **SUPPORT (concept)**

Sparrow Health System supports the concept of Senate Bill 250, introduced by Sen. Geoff Hansen (R-Hart). This bill would amend the Michigan Penal code to provide additional protection for nurses and physicians while they are delivering patient care. Under the bill, an assault of a nurse or physician would be a felony punishable by up to two years imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$2000.

Violence against health care workers reflects a disturbing trend. According to a 2010 Bureau of Labor Statistics analysis, almost sixty percent of assaults in the workplace occurred in a health care setting. Nearly three-quarters of these assaults were by patients or residents of a health facility.

While Sparrow is supportive of the intent of Senate Bill 250, we would like to see the bill be more inclusive **to all medical professions that have direct care to a patient or, to the medical professions under the direct supervision of a professional defined in the Public Health code.** These front line providers care for patients every day and are equally in danger or violence as much as a nurse or physician.

Governor Snyder's Office of Regulatory Reinvention recommendation regarding occupational licensing includes deregulating 18 different professions including Speech Pathologists, Respiratory Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Dietitians and Nutritionists. It is paramount to keep these health care providers protected against violence despite the recommendation to eliminate their regulation under state law.

A safe environment for both patients and health care professionals is a priority for Sparrow as we continue to deliver the highest quality of care. Sparrow appreciates Senator Hansen's efforts to provide additional protection from violence against health care professionals. **We respectfully ask that the language in the S.B. 250 be amended to be more inclusive of all health care professions with direct patient care.**

Please contact me at 517.364.5090 if you have further questions on this issue.